That's Interesting!

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A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Electricity in Ireland

In 1925, the Irish government began a huge project in a small place called Ardnacrusha, in County Clare. This was the building of an electricity power station on the River Shannon. The power station was built to generate electricity for all of Ireland using water from Ireland's longest river. It was known as a **hydro electric station**. The word hydro is the Latin word for water. It was one of the biggest projects of its time anywhere in the world.

A new board was set up by the government, which remains today, known as the ESB, (Electricity Supply Board) and along with a German company called Siemens, took charge of the project. It took more than four years to build at a cost of over five million pounds. More than 4,000 Irish and 1,000 German people worked on the building of the station. The hydroelectric station was completed in 1929.

Over the next 30 years, work began on rolling out electricity to all parts of Ireland. This began in 1945 and was a huge job. Over one million poles had to be put up, 75,000 miles (120,000 kilometres) of lines were spread across mountains and valleys all over the country. To do this, teams of workers were employed.
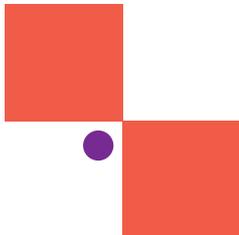

Putting up electricity pole

Image source: ESB archives

These workers had to go to the owners of land in each area to ask if poles could be put up on their land.

In some areas, people did not trust what was happening and were against electricity coming to their parish or village. Large meetings were organised in village halls so the locals could ask questions.

80 years ago, in 1946 the first electricity pole was erected in Dublin, but it was not until the 1970s that electricity was finally rolled out to all parts of Ireland. The day when electricity was being turned on was a big day in every parish. Many places held a festival around it with the local parish priest having the job of turning on the first lights!

There are many stories told of how people were amazed at having light by just turning a switch. Some people were unsure and were afraid to move away from candles and oil lamps.

ESB pamphlet

Image source: ESB archives

The ESB employed staff to travel around the country to show people how to use electric cookers, fridges and washing machines. Electricity in the home changed people's lives for the better. Electric cookers meant food did not have to be cooked on an open fire, washing machines meant clothes no longer needed to be hand washed and water could now be pumped into indoor sinks and toilets.

For many years, water from the River Shannon was used to provide most of the electricity used in Ireland. Coal, which was brought in from other countries, was also used and later peat (turf) burning power stations were opened in County Offaly.

Today, turf stations have all been closed and the last coal burning station in Money Point in County Clare has stopped using coal and plans to change over to wind energy in the next few years. The burning of coal, turf and oil was not good for the environment as it gave off large amounts of carbon into the air.

The hydroelectric station in Ardnacrusha in County Clare is still working but supplies only a very small amount of electricity to the Clare and Limerick city areas.

Hydro Electric Power Station County Clare

Image source: J cmurphy at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

In the summer months, the ESB puts on guided tours of the station which are free and open to the public. To book a visit go to **esb.ie/ardnacrusha**
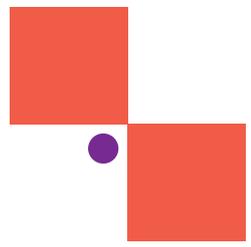
Words from the story

- Look at and say each word and count the beats (syllables).
- Breakdown the word into parts.
- Look at, say out loud and learn each part, close your eyes and try to see each part in your head.
- Cover the word and try to write it yourself by saying each part.
- Check if it is correct, if not try again. The first one is done for you.

To practise them again, put each word into your own sentences.

Word	Breakdown	Practise
electricity	el ec tri ci ty	
electric	el ec tric	
government		
environment		
station		
generate		
employ		
question		
machine		

Plurals

Plural means more than one of something.

1.   For most plurals, you just add **s**.

Examples: 1 dog / 2 dog**s**   1 toy / 2 toy**s**   1 tree / 2 tree**s**

2.   For words ending in **s**, **ss**, **x**, **ch**, **sh**, you add **es**.

Examples: bus / bus**es**   glass / glass**es**   box / box**es**

                     lunch / lunch**es**   brush / brush**es**

3.   For words ending in **f** or **fe**, you change the **f** or **fe** to **ves**.

Examples: calf / cal**ves**   knife / kni**ves**   life / li**ves**

Note: There are some exceptions. For these words ending in **f** just add **s**:

             chef / chef**s**   roof / roof**s**   cliff / cliff**s**   chief / chief**s**

4.   For words ending in **y**, you add **s**.

•   If there is a **vowel before the y in the word**, just add **s** (vowels are a, e, i, o, u).

Examples: toy / toy**s**   play / play**s**   key / key**s**

•   If there is a **consonant before the y**, change **y** to **ies**.

Examples: pony / pon**ies**   lorry / lorr**ies**   lolly / loll**ies**

5.   For words ending in **o**, you add **s** or **es**.

•   If there is a **vowel before the o**, just add **s**.

Examples: radio / radio**s**   video / video**s**

•   If there is a **consonant before the o**, add es.

Examples: tomato / tomato**es** hero / hero**es**   echo / echo**es**
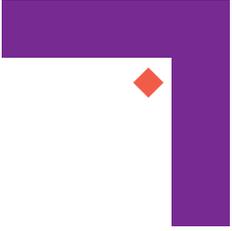
6.   Some words **do not change at all**.

Examples: fish, deer, sheep, money, cheese, rice

7.   Some words **change completely**.

Examples: child / children   mouse / mice   man / men   tooth / teeth

Write the plural

Write the plural of each of these words. (The first one is done for you.):

- child   <u>children</u>
- brush   _____
- woman   _____
- tax   _____
- toy   _____
- tooth   _____
- army   _____
- hero   _____
- pony   _____
- cliff   _____
- fish   _____
- lorry   _____
- box   _____
- party   _____
- calf   _____

- toy   _____
- boss   _____
- mouse   _____
- berry   _____
- lady   _____
- branch   _____
- echo   _____
- thief   _____
- shelf   _____
- roof   _____
- sheep   _____
- family   _____
- dress   _____
- tomato   _____
- cherry   _____

Notes

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Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

Call us on Freephone **1 800 20 20 65**

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website **www.learnwithnala.ie** or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.

NALA

National Adult Literacy Agency
Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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